

districts. I will be the first one to say that we did have a problem during the last decade, this was in regard to the regent that represented us in the western part of the district. He had western Nebraska, and then he had the northern tier of counties. But we changed that four years ago. I think it is working now. I would urge you to support this bill motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, I'm going to just take a couple of minutes, then I'm going to give the rest of my time to Senator Rupp. I did serve on the Constitution Committee that heard this legislation.

PRESIDENT: May we have order in the Chamber, please. There is a lot of conversation rolling around here (gavel) in the stone walls.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I served on the committee which heard this legislation. Senator Haberman or Senator Hefner said look at the statement from the committee. You can see only the Governor showed up in support. That is very misleading and not the truth. If you look at the statement, you will see that there was a number of people that are identified as neutral. They are neutral but in fact they were there representing the Governor's Task Force on higher education. That commission found one of their recommendations of high priority to be appointment of the board of regents. Now because of the tax status and the identity of that commission, they could not come out in favor or opposed to legislation. They were there to talk about their commission study. And their commission study found that this was something they thought ought to be done. So, in fact, they did support this resolution. They represent a number of people in this state that have looked at the issue, taken the time as citizens without any bias one way or the other, without any political consideration, who looked at the issue and came back to us and said we think we ought to change our system of electing the board of regents. So I want to emphasize the Governor wasn't alone but he had a lot of support from the commission, those citizens who make up the commission, who looked at the issue and concluded it is in the best interest of our state to go to this elected...rather than elected to go to an appointive